

# Swanland Education Trust

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Mr Chris Huscroft  
Chief Executive Officer

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

After awaiting the list of Key Workers from the Government, we are now in a position to clarify what this means for our schools. The Government list is comprehensive yet significantly larger than first anticipated and therefore has presented us with challenges in how as schools we best facilitate this.

The Government guidance is absolutely clear:

**“And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

**That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open for those children who absolutely need it.”**

I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for you to help us in delivering the Government’s aim of dealing with the virus as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Furthermore, as leader of the Trust I have a duty of care to ensure that I safeguard my colleagues as best I can. Therefore, schools are operating on skeleton staff in order that we can implement guidance from the Government on ‘Social Distancing’ whilst balancing our ability to provide support for Key Workers and also being able to support families with Key Workers over the Easter holiday period. More details about this will be shared at a later date. Furthermore, I think it is important to note that as the situation develops we may have more and more staff who will have to self-isolate and there our ability to provide the support needed will have to be reviewed for example we may have to prioritise from the Key Workers list. Should there come a point where we do not have enough staff to open the school safely we will have to be closed to ALL children. In the event that this might happen, we will give instructions on what you can do next.

I am asking you to PLEASE consider VERY carefully if you are a Key Worker AND need to send your child(ren) to school; *is this the only option available to you?*

**DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF YOU HAVE ALTERNATIVE, SAFE PROVISION FOR THEM TO STAY AT HOME.**

Please do not be offended if you are asked about your specific situation. Schools in our Trust have an excellent working relationship with the families and as such we need this to continue. Because of this excellent relationship we are aware of many family circumstances and therefore may question if sending your child(ren) to school is absolutely necessary.

It is also important to note that all children across the country are in a position of no longer being educated either whilst at home or indeed if they are in school. The Government have once again made it clear that school's role has changed from education to caring for those children who need it.

So, we will be opening **TRUST SCHOOLS** to the children who fall under the following criteria:

#### **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

#### **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

#### **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

#### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms-length bodies.

#### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

#### **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

#### **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

#### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

### **Children in the social care system**

I know that some schools have already written to parents about the arrangements they have made for their individual schools. If you have not yet received a letter, this will follow shortly after this letter.

Thank you very much for your continuing support, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely  
Chris Huscroft  
CEO

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Chris Huscroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.